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Hunterian Club.

NO. 1. 1872

*Reprints*

# GREENES GHOST

HAPPYING COSTRATCHERS

BY

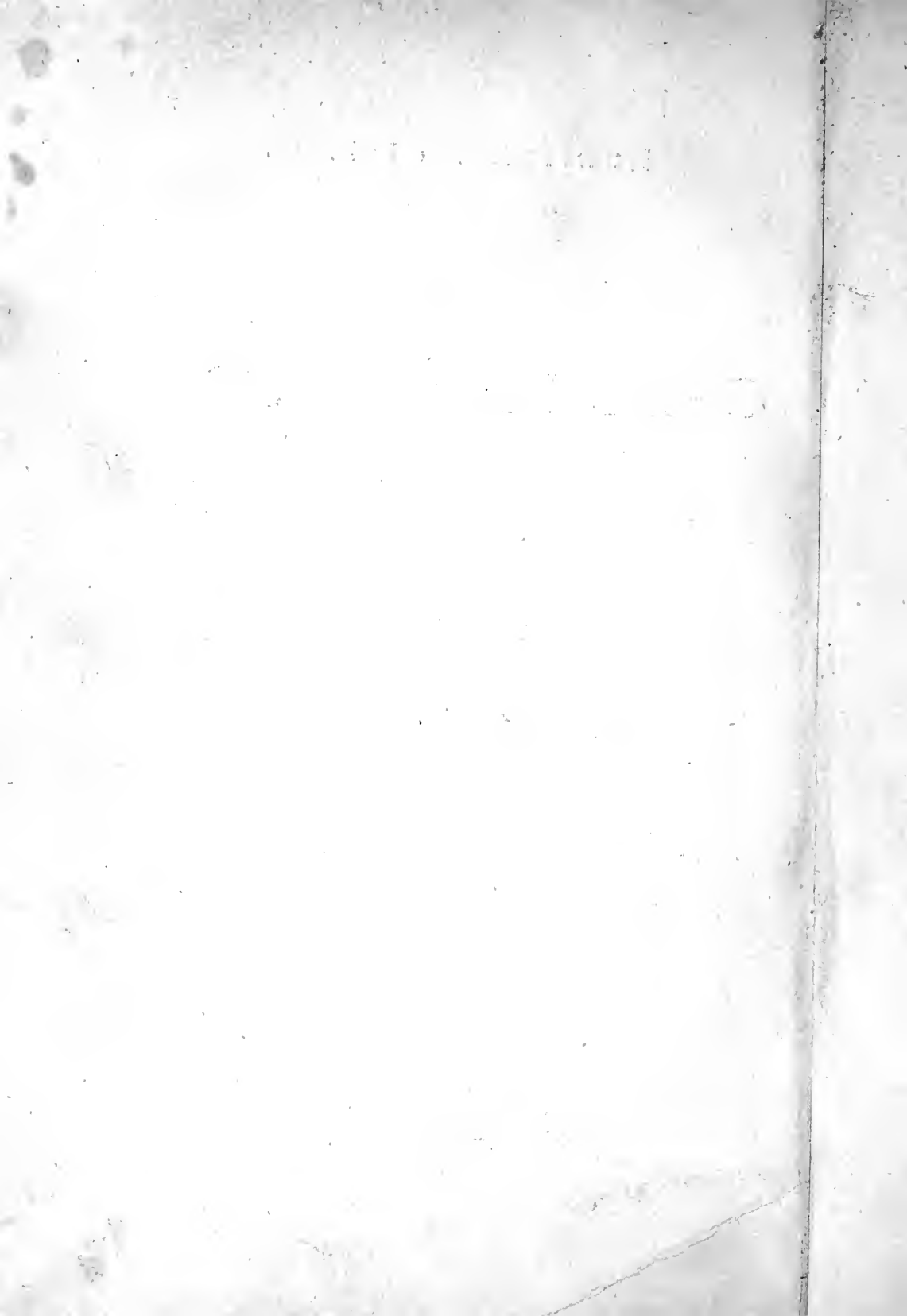
SAMUEL ROWLANDS

REPRINTED FROM THE FIRST EDITION

1872

PRINTED FOR THE HUNTERIAN CLUB

1872





# GREENES GHOST

HAVNTING CONIE-

CATCHERS.

*by Samuel Rowlands.*

*Wherein is set downe,*

The Arte of Humouring.

The Arte of carrying Stones.

Will. St. Lift.

Ia. Foſt. Law.

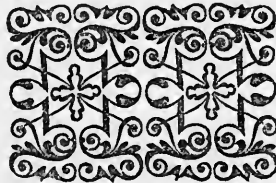
Ned Bro. Catch. *and*

Blacke Robins Kindneſſe.

*With the conceits of Doct<sup>r</sup> Pinch-backe a  
notable Makeſhift.*

Ten times more pleaſant then any thing yet  
*published of this matter.*

*Non ad imitandum, ſed ad euitandum.*



L O N D O N,

*Printed for R. Iackſon, and I. North,*

and are to be ſold in Fleetſtreete,

*a little above the Conduit.*

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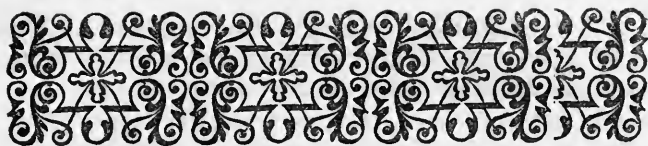
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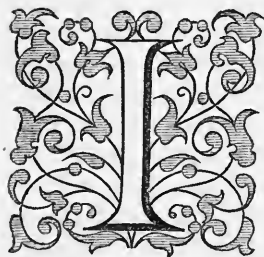
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B

TO VNU  
APPROVAL



TO ALL GENTLEMEN, MERCHANTS, Apprentifes, Farmers, and  
*plaine cuntrymen, health.*



T is moſt true, Gentlemen, and wo-  
full experience dayly teacheth vs,  
that the more carefull Princes are in  
erecting & eſtabliſhing good lawes,  
for the rooting out of vice in the  
common wealth, the more repug-  
nant (the diuell altogether predomi-  
nant ouer them) do euil diſpoſed per-  
ſons, caterpillers, and the off-ſcumme of the world (and ther-  
fore to be reiected and excommunicated from the fellowſhip  
of all honeſt men) oppoſe themſelues againſt God and good  
gouernement, and in ſteede of an honeſt and ciuill cariage  
(which the Lawe preſcribes them) betake them to a moſt  
hatefull, vicious, and deteſtable life: Who, as they may well  
be compared to vipers, moſt venimous and ſpitefull beaſts,  
that for their venime and poiſon are hated and ſhunned of all  
men, as moſt preiudiciall creatures: ſo theſe baſe people, not  
once thinking of an honeſt courſe of life, truſting vpon their  
owne mother wits, dayly deuife newe ſhifts and policies, to  
fleece the plaine dealing man, and by that meanes growe in-  
to more hate amongſt honeſt men, then do the hated Iewes  
at this day: and the name of Conicatchers is ſo odious, that  
now a dayes it is had vp, and vſed for an opprobrious name  
for euerie one that ſheweth the leaſt occaſion of deceit. The  
bookes that were not long ago ſet forth, concerning Conie-  
catching and croſſe-biting, and the diſcouerie of each (if anie  
ſparke of grace were) might haue bene ſo manie reſtraints

A 2

and

## The Epistle

and bridles to call them from that abominable life, but they that are giuen ouer to their owne hearts lust, with all their might inueigh both against them and their Author.

I haue therefore, Gentlemen, as one inforced (*amore patriæ*) taken in hand to publish this little Pamphlet (which by a very friend came by a chance to my hands, and adding somewhat of mine owne knowledge, and vpon verie credible information) most necessarie in my mind for the good of the common wealth, both for all men to see, what grosse villanies are now practised in the bright Sunne-shine, that thereby they may be forewarned to take heede how they conuerse with such cosoning companions: as also a iust checke and controll to such wicked liuers, that they perceiuing their goodnesse fet abroch, may with remorse and penitencie forsake their abominable course of life, and betake them to a more honest and ciuill behauiour. If any with the spider heere seeke to fücke poison, let such a one take heede, that in practising his villany he chaunce commence Bachelor in Whittington Colledge, and so in good time take his degrees and proceede Doctor, and thence with a solemne proceffion take possession of doctor *Stories* cappe; to which some of the worshipfull companie of Conicatchers haue worthily heretofore attained.

In this Treatise (louing countrimen) you shall see what shifts this crue of helhounds haue put in practise since the bookes of Conicatching came forth, vnder these names, viz. *The Art of Humoring*, *The Art of carrying stones*; *W. St Lift. Ia. lawe. Ned Br. catch*, and *Blacke Robins kindnesse*: Wherein are manifested the nature of Humorists, such as can insinuate themselues into euerie mans companie: & as they see him addicted, so will they verse vpon him, what policies they haue to purloine goods out of shops vnder the pretence of plainnesse, what shifts they haue to cofen poore Alewiues, by the art of carrying stones, what inconuenience may come by following flattering strumpets, I know not I what should be the cause why so innumerable harlots and Curtizans abide about London, but because that good lawes are not looked vnto: is there not one appointed for the apprehending of such hell-moths,

## Dedicatorie.

moths, that eat a man out of bodie & foule? And yet there be more notorious strumpets & their mates about the Citie and the fuburbs, then euer were before the Marfhall was appointed: idle mates I meane, that vnder the habit of a Gentleman or feruing man, think themfelues free from the whip, although they can giue no honeft account of their life. I could wifh, and fo it is to be wifhed of euery honeft subiect, that *Amasis* lawe were receiued, who ordained that euerie man at the yeares end fhould giue an account to the Magiftrate how hee liued, and he that did not fo, or could not make an account of an honeft life to be put to death as a fellow, without fauor or pardon: What then fhould become of a number of our vpftart gallants, that liue only by the fweate of other mens browes, and are the decay of the forwardeft Gentlemen and beft wits? Then fhould we haue fewer conicatching strumpets, who are the verie caufes of all the plagues that happen to this flourishing common wealth. They are the deftruction of fo manie Gentlemen in England. By them many Lordships come to ruine. What dangers growe by dallying with fuch vnchafte Libertines, and what inconuenience followes by their inordinat pleafures, let thofe that haue had wofull experience and maifter Surgeon together teftifie: nay, they not onely indanger the bodie by lothfom difeafes, but ingraue a perpetuall fhame in the forehead of the partie, and finally confume his foule and make him fit for the diuell.

To leaue thefe bafe companions (that can be by no wholfom counfell, nor aduifed perfwafions bee difswaded from their lothfom kind of life, nor called to any honeft courfe of liuing) in the dregges of their difhonefty. Would it please the honorable and worfhipfull of the land to take order for the cutting off of thefe cofoners, and confuming cankers of this common wealth, they fhould not only caufe a bleffing to be powred on this flourishing ftate, but haue the prayers of euery good subiect for their prosperous healths and welfare. And thus Gentlemen, I conclude with this farewell: God either conuert or confound fuch bafe companions.

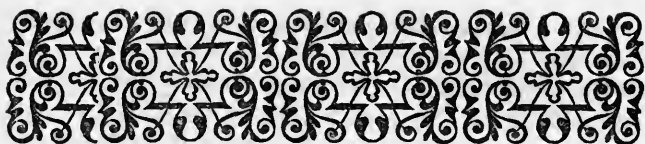
*Yours to vfe,*  
S. R.



To the Reader.

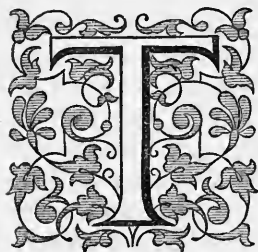


*Se and peruse not with a curious eye,  
For Truth oft's blamde, yet neuer telleth lie.  
I tell not I, what forraine men haue done,  
But follow that which others haue begun.  
No learned Clearke in Schooles that vse to write,  
But Enuie makes their labours some to spite.  
What then shall I, that write a homely stile,  
Thinke but to haue a homely scoffing smile.  
But these and those that either mocke or skorne,  
Would they might weare (faire sight) Aeteons horne.  
But you kind friends, that loue your countries wealth,  
Vouch of my labours, good fortune guide your health.  
To pleasure most, and profit all's my end,  
My greatest care to please both foe and friend.  
Reade then kind friends, my trauell heere you haue,  
I looke for nought, nought but your loues I craue.*



# GREENES GHOST

haunting Conicatchers.



Here hath béene of late daies published two merrie and pithie Pamphlets of the arte of Conicatching: wherein the Author hath sufficiently expressed his experiëce, as also his loue to his Countrie. Neuerthelesse with the Authors leaue, I will ouerlooke some lawe tearmes expressed in the first part of Conicatching: whereunto, as the Author faith, is necessarilie required thrée parties: *The setter, the Verfer, and the Barnacle*. Indéed I haue heard some retainers to this ancient trade dispute of his proceedings in this case, and by them in a full Synode of quart pots it was thorowlie examined and concluded, that there were no such names as he hath set downe, nor anie cheating Arte so christened as Conicatching. Marie, in effect there is the like vnderhand traffique daylie vsed and experienced among some fewe start vp Gallants disperst about the suburbs of London, who tearmes him that drawes the fish to the bait, the Beater, and not the Setter: the Tauerne where they go, the Bush, and the foole so caught, the Bird. As for Conicatching, they cleape it Batfowling, the wine the Strap, and the cards the Limetwigs. Now for the compassing of a woodcocke to worke on, and the fetching him into the wine bench of his wracke, is right beating the bush. The good affe is he will be dealt vpon, stouping to the lure: if he be so wise as to kéep aloofe, a Haggard. And he whom  
he

## Greenes Ghost

he makes Verfer the Retriuer, and the Barnacle the Pothunter.

But all this breakes no square, so long as we concurre *in eodem subiecto*: yet I wish, that as he hath looked into these wicked actions opened therein, so he had also looked into other grosse finnes, which are feeded in the hearts of fundrie persons. Extortion had béene a large theame to haue wrought vpon: and with the Vsurers bagges full of gold he might haue handled another pretie Treatise: He might haue brought forth Iustice weying bread, and the Baker putting his eares in the ballance to make euen weight. He should haue personated the Thames most pitifully complaining, what monstrous hauocke the Brewers make of her water, without all remorse or compassion: and how they put in willowe leaues and broome buds into their woort in steed of hoppes. So likewise a Christian exhortation to mother Bunch would not haue done amisse, that she should not mixe lime with her Ale, to make it mightie, or cozen the Quéenes liege people of their drink, by fubbing them off with these slender wasted blacke pots and Cannes, that will hold little more then a Sering. A profitable Treatise might haue also béene published for such companions to looke into, as for good fellowship will not sticke to lend two or thrée false oathes to defeate the widdow and fatherlesse of their right, though in short space after they lose their eares for their labour. A perswasion against pride had béene verie profitable: and an exhortation against swearing had béene a thing commendable, if he had in a pleasant Treatise shewed the folly of yong youthes and idle queanes; which entring into the seruice of fundrie honest persons, continue there no longer then they can cleanly conuay some sufficient cariage for their present maintenance. Then had he done well, and peradventure giuen such light to fundrie honest householders, that they would be carefull what persons they had receiued into their houses or put in trust about their businesse.

There might haue also beene compiled a delectable and pleasant



## haunting Conicatchers.

pleasant Treatise of the abuse committed by such as sell bottle ale, who to make it fly vp to the top of the house at the first opening do put gunpowder into the bottles while the ale is new. Then by stopping it close, make the people beléeue it is the strength of the ale, when being truly sifted it is nothing indéed but the strength of the gunpowder that worketh the effect, to the great heart-burning of the parties that drinke the same. I would haue had him touch the contrarietie of apparell, and set downe reasons to disswade men from wearing French peakes, because they are good for nothing but to stab men, as also told the vse of the terrible cut, and the Swallow taile flash.

To leaue daliance and come to the matter. I will informe you what policies haue béene practised since the books of Conicatching were set forth. These Batfowlers or Conicatchers hauing lost a collop of their liuing, by communicating their secrets with babling companions, haue now inuented a newe tricke to fetch in the pence. They disguise themselues like Apparitors or Sumners, and come to a young Gentleman, Merchant, or old pinch-crust, as it maie fall out, that hath gotten a maid, a mans daughter, or this widdow or ordinarie woman with child, or at least haue béene more neere with them then they should: and them they threaten with proceffe, citations, the whip, or the white sheete at least, vntill they come to compositiō. The timorous foules fearing to be made a by-word of shame to the whole Citie, bribe them with all that euer they can rap and rend, to holde their peace, and saue their honestie. They will vrge the strictnesse of their oath, and the danger of the law in such cases of concealement, vntill they can fee them come off roundly: then they will hamme and hauke, and saie they are not euery bodie, and so take their mony, and returne laughing in their sléeues, to thinke how they cosoned them.

Within short time after they send another of their copes-mates after the same sort, and he giues them the like pluck. And so two or thrée one after the other, shall neuer leaue

B

afflicting

## Greenes Ghost

afflicting his ghost, till they haue made him as bare as a birds taile, so as he hath not one pennie more to saue him from hanging, if néede were. A monstros abuse of authoritie, and hindrance to the courts of Iustice, that haue the ouersight of such offences.

Other there be that do nothing but ride vp and downe the countrie, like yong merchants a wooing, and they will marrie euerie moneth a new wife, & then fleece her of all she hath, that done run away, and learne where another rich widow dwelleth, and serue her after the same sort: so rounding England, til they haue pickt vp their crummes, and got enough to maintaine them all their life after.

But excéeding all these are the fine sleights of our Italian humourists, who being men for all companies, will by once conuerſing with a man so draw him to them, that he shall thinke nothing in the world too deare for them, nor once be able to part them, vntill they haue spent all they haue on them.

If he be lasciuiously addicted they haue Aretines Tables at his fingers ends, to feede him on with new kinde of filthineſſe: they will come in with Rowſe the French painter, and shew what an vnlawfull vaine he had in baudrie: not a whore nor a queane about the towne but they knowe, and can tell her markes, and where, and with whom shée hoſts.

If they ſée you couetouſly bent, they will diſcourſe wonders of the Philoſophers ſtone, and make you beléeue they can make gold of gooſe-greaſe, only you muſt be at ſome two or thrée hundred pound charge, or ſuch a ſmall trifle, to helpe to ſet vp their ſtilles, and then you néede not care where you beg your bread: for they will make you do little better, if you follow their preſcriptions.

Diſcourſe with them of countries, they will ſet you on fire with traouelling: yea what place is it they will not ſweare they haue béene in, and I warrant you tell ſuch a found tale, as if it were all Goſpell they ſpake. Not a corner in Fraunce but they can deſcribe. Venice, why? It is nothing, for they haue intelligence of it euerie houre, and  
at

## haunting Conicatchers.

at euerie word will come in with Siado Curtizano, tell you such miracles of Madame Padilia and Romana Impia, that you will be mad till you be out of England: & if he see you are caught with this baite he will make as though he will leaue you, and faine businesse about the Court, or that such a Noble man fent for him, when you will rather consent to robbe all your friends then bee seuered from him one houre. If you request his companie to traueile, he will say, In faith I cannot tell, I would sooner spend my life in your companie, then in anie mans in England. But at this time I am not so provided of monie as I would: therefore I can make no promise: and if a man should aduventure vpon such a iourney without money, it were miserable and base, and no man will care for vs. Tut monie say you (like a liberall young maister) take no care for that, for I haue so much land, and I will sell it, my credite is worth so much, and I will vse it. I haue the keeping of a Cofens chamber of mine, which is an old counsellour, and he this vacation time is gone downe into the countrie, we will breake vp his studie, rifle his chestes, diue into the bottome of his bagges, but we will haue to serue our turne, rather then faile we will sell his bookes, pawne his bedding & hangings, and make riddance of all his household stufte to fet vs packing. To this he listens a little, and faith, These are some hopes yet, but if he should goe with you, and you haue monie, and he none, you will dominéere ouer him at your pleasure, & then he were wel set vp to leaue such possibilities in Englād, & be made a slaue in another countrie. With that you offer to part halfe with him, or put al into his custody, before he should think you meant otherwise then wel with him. He takes you at your offer, and promifeth to husband it so for you, that you shall spend with the best, and yet not wast halfe so much as you do. Which makes you (meaning simplie) to put him in trust, and giue him the purse. Then all a boone voyage into the lowe Countries you trudge, and so traueile vp into Italy, but *per varios casus, & tot discrimina rerum*, in a

B 2

towne

## Greenes Ghost

towne of garrifon he leaues you, runnes awaie with your monie, and makes you glad to betake your selfe to pro-uant and become a Gentleman of a companie. If he feare you will make after him he will change his name: and if there be anie Gentleman or other in the countrie, he will borrow his name and creepe into his kinred, or it shall cost him a fall, and make him paie swéetly for it in the end, if he take not the better heed. Thus will he be sure to haue one Affe or other a foote to kéepe himselfe in pleasing.

There is no Arte but he will haue a superficiall fight into, and put downe euerie man with talke: and when he hath vttered the most he can, make men beléeue he knowes ten times more then he will put into their heads, which are secrets not to be made common to euerie one.

He will perswade you he hath twentie receipts of loue powders, that he can frame a ring with such a deuise, that if a wench put it on her finger she shal not choose but follow you vp and downe the streetes.

If you haue an enemy that you would be faine rid of, he will teach you to poison him with your verie lookes: to stand on the top of Poules with a burning glasse in your hand, and cast the same with such a force on a mans face that walkes vnder, that it shall strike him stark dead, more violently then lightning.

To fill a letter full of néedles, which shall be laid after such a mathematical order, that when he opens it, to whom it is sent, they shall spring vp and flie into his bodie forcibly, as if they had béene blowne vp with gunpowder, or sent from a Caliuers mouth like small shot.

To conclude, he will haue such probable reasons to procure beléeue to his lies, such a smooth tongue to deliuer them, and set them forth with such a grace, that he should be a verie wise man did not swallow the Gudgin at his hands.

In this fort haue I knowne fundrie young Gentlemen of England trained forth to their owne destruction, which makes me the more willing to publish this discourse

## haunting Conicatchers.

course, the better to forewarne other of such Batfowling companions; as also for the rooting out of these insinuating moth-wormes that eate men out of their substance vnseene, and are the decaie of the forwardest Gentlemen and best wits.

How manie haue we about London, yt to the disgrace of Gentlemen liue gentlemanlike of themselues hauing neither mony nor land, nor any lawful means to maintain them, some by play, and then they go a mumming into the countrie all the Christmas time with false dice, or if there be anie place where Gentlemen or merchants frequent in the Citie, or anie towne corporate, thither will they, either disguised like to yong merchants, or substantiall Citizens, and draw them all drie that euer dealt with them.

There are some that doe nothing but walke vp and downe Paules, or come to shops to buy wares, with budgets of writings vnder their armes: and these will vrge talke with anie man about their futes in law, and discourse vnto them how these and these mens bands they haue for money, that are the chiefeest dealers in London, Norwich, Bristow, and such like places, and complaine that they can not get one pennie. Why, if such a one doth owe it you (faith some man that knowes him) I durst buy the debt of you, let me get it of him as I can. O faith my budget-man, I haue his hand and seale to shewe, looke heere els: and with that pluckes out a counterfeit band (as all other his writings are) and reades it to him. Whereupon for halfe in halfe they presently compound, and after that hee hath that ten pounds paid him for his band of twentie besides the forfeiture, or so forth, he sayes, Faith these Lawyers drinke me as drie as a sieue, and I haue mony to pay at such a daie, and I doubt I shall not be able to compasse it: here are all the leases and euidences of my land lying in such a shire, I would you would lend me fortie pounds on them till the next tearme, or for some fixe moneths, and then either it shall be repayed with interest, or I will forfeit my whole inheritāce, which is better worth then a hundred

B 3

marks

## Greenes Ghost

marks a yeare.

The wealthie retailer, citizen, merchant, Gentleman or young nouice that hath store of crownes lying by him, gréedy of such a bargaine, thinking perhaps by one claufe or other to defeat him of all he hath, lends him the mony and takes a faire statute merchant of his lands before a Iudge, but when all comes to all, he hath no more land in England then feuen foote in the Church yard, neither is his inheritance either in *Poffe* or *Effe*, then a paire of gallowes in a gréene field, nor do anie such occupiers knowe him, much leffe owe him anie money, whereby the couetous person is cheated fortie or fiftie pounds thick at one clap.

Not vnlike to these are they, that comming to Ordinaries about the Exchange where Merchants do table for the most part, will faie they haue two or thrée ships of coales late come from Newcastle, and wifh they could light on a good chapman that would deale for them altogether. What is your price, faith one? What's your price, faith another? He holds them at the first at a very high rate, and fets a good face on it, as though he had such traffique indéed, but afterward comes downe fo low, y<sup>t</sup> euerie man striues who fhall giue him earneft first: and ere he be aware, he hath fortie fhillings clapt into his hand, to assure the bargaine to some one of them. He puts it vp quietly, and bids them inquire for him at fuch a figne and place, where he neuer came, signifying alfo his name, when in troth he is but a cofoning companion, and no fuch man to be found. Thus goes he cleare awaie with fortie fhillings in his purfe for nothing, and they vnlike euer to fee him againe.

There is a certain kind of cofonage called horfecourfing, which is when a man goes to the Cariers of Cambridge, Oxford, Burie or Norwich, or anie great towne of trade, and hires a horfe to ride downe with them, as thefe odde companions will doe: and what doth me he, but as foone as he hath him, fteps afide into fome blind towne or other, and there lies till he haue eaten him out lim by lim in wine and capons, and then when he can get no more on him, he  
fends

## haunting Conicatchers.

fends the Carier word where he is; who in the end is faine to pay some fiftie shillings or three pounds for his victuals that hired him ere he can haue him. Rochester hackney-men do knowe what belongs to this trade, for they haue béene often times fléeced by these ranke riders, who coming to a towne with a cloke-bag of stones caried after them, as if they were men of some worth, hire a horse to Canterburie, and ride quite away with him.

There be certaine mates called Faunguefts, who if they can find a fit Anuill to strike on, will learne what acquaintance he hath in the countrie, and then they will come to him, and say, I am to doe commendations to you from a friend of yours, and he gaue me this bowed fixe pence to drinke a quart of wine with you for his sake: and if he goe to the tauerne, they will not onely make him paie for the wine, but for all he drinks in besides.

So was one in Aldergate-stréete lately serued, who drawne to the tauerne after such a like order called for a pinte of wine, the drawer brought it him, and a goblet with it, and set them both on the table, and went his way: Whie, quoth this Fawneguest, what a goblet hath the fellow brought vs here, it wil not hold halfe a draught? So ho (quoth he) no attendance giuen here? Ile carie it to him my selfe, since no body will come: for of all things I loue not to drinke in these squirting cups, so downe the staires, forth of the doores he goes with the goblet vnder his cloake, and left his newe acquaintance and small remembrance to paie thrée pound for a thrée-penie shot.

Such Fawneguests were they, that méeting a prentise, who had béene to receiue a hundred pound for his master, sodainly in the middest of Cheapside in the daie time, and open market stept to him, as if they had bin familiarly acquainted with him, and sodainly cast the hinder skirt of his cloake ouer his face, making as though they had iested with him, and séeming to thrust their cold hands in his necke, one of them thratled him so fore by the wind-pipe, that he could make no noise, but sodainly funke to the ground

## Greenes Ghost

ground muffled in his cloke, while the other took from him the bagge with the money which he had vnder his arme, which done, they ranne away laughing, as if that the déede were done in iest.

Soone after the market folks and people passing by to & fro perceiuing the youth lie still on the ground & not stir vp, stepped to him, and séeing in what state he was, rubbed and chafed him, and gaue him Aqua vitæ, so that soone after he came againe to himself: then looking about him, & séeing the people so gathered together, he cried vnto them, O, where's my money! They wondring to heare him talke of mony, told him both how his companions left him, and they found him, whereby the people knowing how he was deceiued, made after them, but they were neuer heard of till this day.

But these are Gentlemen Batfowlers in comparifon of the common rablement of Cutpurfes and pickpockets, and no man that sées them but would imagine them to be Caualliers of verie good fort. Marie there be a band of more néedy mates, called Termers, who trauell all the yeere from faire to faire, and haue great doing in Westminster hall. These are the Nips and Foists; whereof the first part of Conicatching entreateth, and these haue their cloyers and followers, which are verie troublesome to them, for they can no sooner draw a bung but these come in for their tenths, which they generally tearm snapping, or snappage.

Now if the Cutpurse denie snappage, his cloyer or follower forthwith boyles him, that is, bewrayes him, or seazeth on his cloake, which the Nip dares not withstand, so Richard Farrie a notable Lift of fixtie yeares of age was serued, who beeing dogged or followed by a Cloyer called Iohn Gibson, who hauing séene him pierce a hogshed in the beginning of a faire challenged him for snappage: which old Farrie denied, because Gibsons wife (as hee then said) was a pickpocket, and yet would part with nothing. Then did Gibson sweare that he shuld not buy one peniworth of ware that day (which is the right cutpurse phrase of getting



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ting a purchase) and thereupon he shadowed him vp and downe, and mard his market quite, as hee had before promised.

In reuenge whereof the said *Richard Farrie* at Wayhill faire last, hearing where *Gibson* had purloined a purse with thirtéene nobles in it, sent a lustie fellow of his profession, a yoong dealer in the arte of cloying or following named *Iames Roades*, that was since hanged at *Dorchester*, who being apparelled like a feruingman, came to demaund his mistresse purse of *Gibson*, which he said he saw him vnlawfully take awaie, as if indéed he had béene the Gentlewomans man that had the gléeke. Which *Gibson* at the first vtterly denied, but afterward being further threatned with danger of his life, yeelded the purchase vnto *Roades*, which was immediatelic shared betwéene him and old *Farrie*.

This thing soone after came to *Gibsons* eare, who was throughly laughed to scorne for his labour.

Manie there be of these wicked perfons, and also lewd Officers, who like shadowes or cloyers, do nothing all day long but follow the Lifts vp and downe, pinching them for snappage: and not one of them that hath the right dexteritie in his fingers, but they know, & will conceale and patronize if néede require. Marie, if there be a nouice, that hath not made himfelfe knowne to their congregation, hee shall soone be smelt out, and haue no remission, vnlesse hee purchase it by priuy pilferie.

These Cutpurses of *Sturbridge* sell their luggage commonly at a towne called *Botsham*, where they kéepe their hall at an odde house, bowzing and quaffing, and haue their trulles attendant vpon them so briske as may be.

How a Cheesemonger had his bag cut out of his  
Aprone hanging before him.

AT this faire it was, though long since, that the cheesemonger had his pocket cut out of his aprone, which  
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all the whole Colledge of Cutpurfes had assayed, which none but one could bring to passe, and he indeed was a doctor in his arte: for going to the Chéefemongers boothe to buy a chéefe, he gaue him monie for one of the greatest, and desired him to cut it in péeces, and put it behind him in the cape of his cloake. He did so, and the whilest he was thrusting it in, hee cut his pocket with twelue pounds out of his apron before him: for which deede he liueth renowned in the Cutpurse chronicles, and for his sake they yearly make a feast, and drinke to the soule of his deccafed carkasse.

There be diuers sorts of Nips and Foyfts both of the citie and countrie: these cannot one abide the other, but are at deadly hatred, and will boyle and discouer one another, by reason one is hindrance to the other. And these the former bookes haue omitted. There are also fundrie other Lawes, not heretofore spoken of, namely Iames Fosters Law, or Iames Fosters Lift: which grewe thus.

### How a cofoning Lift stole a cloake out of a Scriueners shop.

**T**His fellow came into a Scriueners shop to haue a letter written to his wiues mother, signifying that his wife was run awaie with another knaue, and had carried awaie all that he had, and that he had rather be hanged then be troubled anie longer with such a whore. But it must néeds be written in haste, for his owne father doth carie it, and he goes awaie straight. All the while he is telling his tale, he cast a léering eye about the shop, to see if there were euer a cloake vpon a by-settle, or anie other bootie that he might transport vnscéene vnder his owne cloak. By chance he espied one, so he leaned against the wall where it lay, and with his hands behind him, he gathered it vp cleanly by little and little: then sodainly starting vp, said, Yonder is my father that would carie it, and I will run after him to call him againe. So out of the doores ran  
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he with all speed, hauing the cloake vnder his arme, crying, Ho father, father, leauing the Scriuener yet writing his letter, who mist not his cloake till a great while after, that he saw him not returne againe.

There is a cunninger kind of Lift, when a Batfowler walking in an euening in the streetes, will faine he hath let fall a ring or a Iewell, and come to a shop well furnished with wares, and desire the prentise of the house to lend his candle to looke it: he suspecteth no guile, lends it him: and the Batfowler goes poaring vp and downe by the doores, as if he had lost something in déed, by and by he lets the candle fal to and it goes out. Now I pray you good yong man, faith he, do so much as light me this candle againe: so goes the fellow in to light the candle, while hee steales what he will out of the shop, and gets him going while the light commeth.

There is a Lift called Will. St. Lift, whose maner is to go vp and downe to Faires in a blew coate, sometimes in his doublet and hose, and sometimes in a cloake, which commonly he puts off when he comes thither: this fellow waiteth diligently when any rich yeoman, Gentleman, or gentlewoman goes into an Inne to laie vp his cloak, capcase, fauegard, Portmantua or any other luggage, so following them, marks to whom they are deliuered: then comes he within halfe an houre after puffing and blowing for the cloake, capcase, portmantua, sword, or such like, and in his maisters name demandeth it, giuing the wife, maid, tapster, hostler, or some of the house two pence or a groate for laying it vp. Which hauing receiued, he is soone gone, and neuer returneth. This fellow will sometime stand bareheaded, and offer to hold a Gentlemans stirop, and verie diligently attend vpon him when he alighteth at anie great Inne, and seemeth so seruiceable, as if he were an hostler or chamberlaine belonging to the house: yea and sometimes follow him out of doores as his man, and attend vpon him to the Faire very orderly: within halfe an houre after, when he sees his new maister is so

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busie in the Faire, that he cannot hastily returne to his lodging before him, he will come backe to the Inne running, and tell them his Maister hath sent him to them for his clokebag or Portmantua in all haste: for he is vpon payment of money, and must needs haue it. They thinking him verilie to be the Gentlemans man, becaufe at his comming he was so necessarie about him, they deliuer vnto him whatsoeuer the Gentleman left with them, who notwithstanding when the true owner commeth, they are faine to answer it out of their owne purses.

### A flie tricke of Cofonage lately done in Cheapefide.

**B**Efides this, there is a kind of Lift called Chopchain, as when a Gentleman like a batfowler hath hired a chain for a day or two vpon his credit, or hath some of his friends bound for the restoring of it againe, goes to S. Martines, and buyes for a little money another copper chaine, as like it as maie be: then comes he to the Goldsmith, and vpon the right chaine offers to borrow twentie pounds: the Goldsmith toucheth it to see if it be counterfeited or no: then finding it good, he tendereth him his money: which the whilest he is doing, and that both money and chaine lies yet vpon the stall, what doth me he, but fumbles and plaies with the linkes carelessly, as if he minded another matter, so by a fine tricke of Legerdemaine gathers it vp into his hand & chops the copper chaine in place, leauing him that pawne for his twentie pounds.

### How a man was cofoned in the euening by buying a guilt spoone.

**V**W<sup>H</sup>ilest I was writing this, I was giuen to vnderstand of another like exploit nothing inferiour to any of the former. A fellowe like a clowne that knew all points in his tables, and had béene maister of his  
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his trade manie yeares together, walking through Siluer stréete in London suddenly in the dark spurned a faire gilt spoone (as it féemed) being wrapt vp in a paper, which before he purpofely let fall: the people thinking some other had loft it, and that it had béene his good luck about the reft to find it, gan to flocke about him for to looke on it, and admired his fortune in meeting with it. He counterfeiting the fimple foole as well as he could: Now a Gods will what fhall I do with fuch a Gugaw? would some other bodie had found it for me, for I know not what it is good for. Why, faid one of the ftanders by, wilt thou take money for it? I, quoth he, I would I had a crowne for it. And I will come fomewhat néere you, faith the other, for thou fhalt haue all the money in my purfe, which is foure fhillings, fo forth he drewe his purfe, and gaue him the money. And verie well content with the bargain, he put it vp, and faid, I marie, this money will doe me more good then twentie fpoones, and let them kéepe fuch toies that lift, for I had rather haue one groat in my purfe then a cart load of fuch trumperie. So away he went laughing in his fléue, to thinke how he had cofoned him that thought to ouerreach him: & he that was fo cofoned, as it were triumphing at his bargaine, could neuer looke enough on the spoone, but went prefently and caried it to the Goldfmith, to know what it was worth. Birlady fir when he came thither, the spoone was found to be but brasse faire gilded ouer, and worth but feuen pence at the moft, if he fhould fell it, which was a heauie cooling card to his heart, and made him fweare, that for that fpoones fake he would neuer be in his plate againe while he liued.

Thus euerie daie they haue new inuentions for their villanies, and as often as fashions alter, fo often do they alter their stratagems, ftudying as much how to compaffe a poore mans purfe, as the Prince of Parma did to win a towne. Neither is this fpoonefelling the gainfullest of their artes, although in one day they made away a dozen fo. I but it is a trick by the waie for a fupper or a breake-

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fast, which no man at the first can descric. Ouerpassing this catalogue of Lifts and Cutpurfes, Gentlemen, I will acquaint you with a strange newe deuised arte of stone-carying, wherein is contained the right vse of the chalke and the poast, as also a necessarie cauate for vi-tuallers and nickpots, how to beware of such insinuating companions.

### The Arte of carying stones.

**F**Irst and foremost you must note, that leauing an Alewife in the lurch, is termed making her carie stones, which stones be those great Oes in chalke that stand behind the doore: the weight of euerie one of which is so great that as manie shillings as there be, so many times shee cries O, as groning vnder the waight thereof. Now sir, of these Oes twentie shillings make a iust load, and tenne pound a bargeful. But here lies the cunning, how to compasse an honest Ass that will vndertake such a burthen: first this is a generall precept amongst them, that he must be some odde drunken companion that they deale vpon, and his wife a good wench, that so she may bee fallen in with, and wipe off her guests scores, if so he haue no monie to discharge it: a thing that manie women of that kind will willingly do to haue sport and faue their honestie. Yet if this cannot conueniently be brought to passe, or that in respect of her age she is not worth the taking vp, then will they be sure their goodman hoast must be a certaine kind of bawd, or a receiuer of cutpurfes, pickpockets, or such like, whereby it so fals out, that if he and they square about crownes, they may stop his mouth with threatning to betraie him to the Beadle of Bridewell, or telling Hind of Newgate what hospitalitie he keepe. Nay further, they will obserue if he at anie time raile against anie seuerel Iustice that hath the punishment of such notorious persons, and if he do (as in some drunken humour or other he will ouershoot himselfe in that kind) then will they conceale

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ceale it, neuer difcoer it, but dominéere ouer them, throwe the pots againſt the wall, for he and his houſe is forfeit vn- to them. Againe, it maie ſo happen that *hoſpes meus* maie be an old ſeruingman, who hath belonged in his daies to ſome famous recusant that hath long ſince broke vp houſe, and now being turned out of ſeruice, he hath no trade to liue on, but muſt marie a whore, and kéepe victualling either in Weſtminſter, or in the ſuburbs of London. Then cocke a hoope, they are better then euer they were. For if he be of the right ſtampe he will be exclaiming againſt the ſtate, or thoſe that kéepe his maſter, or he will enter into commendations of the old Religion: and this is the onely thing they deſire, they neuer wiſh a finer fellow to feed on. A Gods name let him ſet forth his béefe and brewes, and trudge euerie day to the market to buy Capons & rabbets: for if they run neuer ſo much in his debt, if they tell him of a purſeuant, he will neuer threaten thē with a ſergeant. A number more of theſe obſeruations do appertaine to ſtone carying, as namely at their firſt comming to their lodging they bee as frée as an Emperour, and draw all the acquaintance that they can procure to ſpend their money there before another place, ſo that the hoſt and hoſteſſe may conceiue great matter of hope of hauing their houſe cuſtomed by their lying in it, and eate no meat but haue either the good man or the goodwife ſtill with him at dinner or ſupper, which will plucke the ſtones on his ſhoulders the faſter, if ſo he ſuffer his gueſts to run on the ſcore. And this in anie caſe they ſet down for a generall rule, that they lie not aboue two moneths in one place, for longer the aleſcore is not able to hold out, and the poore man ouerpreſſed ſo exceſſiue, in a malecontent humour will rather grow deſperate, and not care for anie danger they can bring him to, then ſuffer more then fleſh and bloud can endure, or not rather haue his will on them for vſing him ſo badly.

How ſay you my maſters, you thinke there is no deceit in a pot of ale, and that there are no coſoners but Conicatchers, but that's not ſo, for London is a lickpenie, and  
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cuerie man hath not a mint in his pocket that liues in it, fome muft praëtise witcraft, that haue not the gift in kée-  
ping a lanes end with a sword and a buckler, or at the least  
are so crazed with the Italian bone-ache, that they are a-  
fraid to bee cruft in péeces, if they should earne their li-  
uing in a crowde. But to be briefe, I will tell you a merie  
ftorie how this name of Stone-carying first came vp, and  
thus it followeth.

### How a Carier of Norwich was made to carie stones.

A Gentlewoman that made a shew as if she had béene  
of good credit, came to the carier of Norwich, and told  
him shee was to remoue household, and went to dwell in the  
countrie, wherfore she craued his friendship in safe trans-  
porting of her things to Norwich: & so it is (quoth she) that  
most of my substance consists in linnen, money, Jewels,  
and plate, which I put altogether in a great chest, which  
she brought thither: As for other trash Ile neuer trouble  
my selfe with remouing. I pray you haue a great care to it  
that it bee safely laid in the middest of your cart, where  
théeues maie not easily come at it, and that it be kept from  
raine or wet in anie case, promising to content him for the  
cariage with more then ordinarie due. After it was  
féene to come to thrée hundred weight, he laid it vp imme-  
diately in his carte, nor would she depart till she saw it safe  
packed. About an houre after she came to the carier again,  
telling him that she was afraid she should be constrained  
to haue recourse to her chest, by reason she had a few tri-  
fles to buy ere she departed, and that she wanted some fíue  
or sixe pound. The Carier loath to vnload for so small a  
matter, bid her take no care for money, for what she néed-  
ed she should haue of him, till she came downe into the  
countrie. So sixe pounds he lent her: and downe with him  
she goes with her man as braue as might be. But com-  
ming to Windham, shee gaue him the slip, and he sawe  
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her no more: Home went the Carier, and laid vp the cheft verie fafe in his storehoufe, daily looking when the Gentlewoman would come for it. After a moneth was paft, and hearing no words of her, fearing he was cofoned, he fent for the Conftable and fundrie other of his neighbours, and before them brake vp the cheft, finding nothing in it but fmall foft fréestone lapped in ftrow, mixt with Flints and fuch like ftuffe, beeing very fpeciall things to giue the Carier his loading. Alas, kind man, this was but heauie tidings for him: for befides the money that he had laid out of his purfe, he loft the cariage of other luggage, which would haue returned him greater profit. Yet could not this nor ten times as much vndoe him, but fetting light of it, in a merie humour he reported to fome of his friends the circumftance of all his cariage of ftones. And euer fince the left hath beene taken vp by odde companions and Ale-knights.

I would bee loth by this my publifht Difcouerie to corrupt the fimple, or teach them knauerie by my book, that els would haue béene honeft, if they had neuer féene them: for that were all one as if a Chirurghion that teacheth men what the plague is, that they might efchew it, fhould bring his patient that hath a plague fore, into the market place, and there lance it, whereby all men that looke on, in ftéed of learning to auoid it, fhould be moft dangerously infected with it. But my meaning in this is, but to chafe the game which others haue rowfed; and execute them outright which Conicatching only hath branded: and although I do not fpend manie leaues in inueighing againft the vices which I reckon vp, or time and paper in vrging their odiousneffe fo far as I might: yet you muft not thinke, but I hate them as deadly as any, and to make manifefst my hatred to them, haue vndertooke this Treatife. But imagine the Reader to be of this wifdome and difcretion, that hearing fome laid open, he can difcerne it to be finne, and can fo deteft it, though he be not cloid with a common place of exhortation. And footh to fay, I thinke euery man to bee of

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my mind, that when they see a fellow leape from the subiect he is handling, to dissuade them by stale arguments from the thing they already detest, they should skip it over, and neuer reade it, gainecope him at the next turning point to his text.

To dismisse this parenthesis and returne to *circa quod*. I care not since this occasion of Stone-carrying hath brought me from talking of the cofonage of men to the treacherous subtiltie of women, if I rehearse you a tale or two more of Crosbitings lately done by such detestable strumpets.

### A Tale of a whore that crosbit a Gentleman of the Innes of Court.

A Certaine queane belonging to a close Nunnerie about Clarkenwell, lighting in the company of a yong Punie of the Innes of Court, trained him home with her to her hospitall: and there couenanting for so much to giue him his houferoome all night. To bed they went together like man and wife. At midnight a crue of her copef-mates kept a knocking and busling at the doore. She starting sodainly out of her sleépe, arose and went to the window to looke out: wherewith she crying out to him, said, that a Iustice was at the doore with a companie of billes, and came to search for a seminarie Priest, and that there was no remedie but she must open vnto them: wherefore either he must rise and locke himselfe in a studie that was hard by, or they should be both caried to Bridewell. The poore silly youth in a trance, as one new start out of sleép, and that knew not where he was, suffered her to leade him whither she would, who hastily thrust him into the studie, and there locked him, and went to let them in. Then entred Sim Swashbuckler, Captaine Gogfswounds, and Lawrence Longsword-man, with their appurtenances, made inquirie as if they had béene Officers indéed, for a young Seminarie Priest that should be lodged there that night.

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She fimpred it, and made curtesie, & spake reuerently vn-to them, as if she had neuer seene them before, and that they had béene such as they séemed, and told them she knew of none such, and that none lay there but her selfe. With that through signes that shee made, they spied where his clothes were fallen downe betwéene the chest and the wall: Then they began to raile vpon her, and call her a thousande whoores, saying they would make her an example, I mary would they, and vse her like an Infidell for her lying, nor would they stand searching any longer, but shee should be constrained to bring him forth: And that they might be sure he should not start, they would carie away his clothes with them. As for the closet, because it was a Gentlemans out of the towne, they would not rashly breake it open, but they would set watch and ward about the house till the morning, by which time they would résolue further what to do. So out of doores go they with his clothes, doublet, hose, hat, rapier, dagger, shooes, stockings, and twentie marks that he had in his' sleec, which he was to pay vpon a band the next day for his father, to a merchant in Canning streete, and left Nicholas Nouice staruing and quaking in that doghole. The morning grew on, and yet the yong Ninihammer, though he was almost frozen to death, stood still and durst not stirre, till at length the good wife of the house came and let him out, and bad him shift for himselfe, for the house was so belaid, that it was not possible for him to escape, & that she was vtterly vndone through his comming thither. After manie words it grew to this vpshot; that he must giue her a ring worth thirtie shillings, which he then had on his finger, onely to helpe him out at a backe doore, and in so doing she would lend him a blanket to cast about him. Which béeing perfourmed, like an Irish begger he departed on the backside of the fieldes to his chamber, vowing neuer to pay so déere for one nights lodging during his life.

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How a Curbar was drest with an vnfauourie perfume,  
and how a notable whore was crosbit-  
ten in her owne practife.

A Notable whoore of late daies compact with a hooker, whom conicatching English calls Curbar, bargained with a countrie Gentleman or Tearmer aforefaid, to tell her tales in her eare all night: & according to appointment he did so. The Gentleman hauing fupt, and readie to go to bed, she willed him to lay his clothes in the windowe, for (quoth she) we are so troubled with rats in this place (which was in Peticote lane) that wee cannot lay any thing out of our hands, but they will in one night be gnawne to peeces, and made worth nothing: but her intent was this, that the Curbar with his crome might the more conueniently reach them; not that she cared so much for his apparell, as for his purse, which she knew was well stored with crownes, and lay in the sleeue of his doublet: whereupon he was ruled by her, and so entred the lifts. Within two houres after, he beeing fore troubled with a laske, rose yp and made a double vse of his chamberpot, which going to throw it out at the window, he remoued the clothes from before it, and set it in the place till he had opened the casement. At that instant the spring of the window leapt open of the one accord. Whereat being amazed, he stept backe with a trice, leauing the chamberpot standing still: then fearing the diuell had beene at hand, by and by he spied a faire iron instrument like a nut came marching in at the window verie solemnly, which in steede of the doublet and the hose that he ferretted for, arrested that homely seruice in the member vessell, and pluckt goodman Iordan with all his contents down pat vpon the Curbars head and shoulders. Neuer was gentle Angler so drest: for his face, his necke and apparell were all besmeared with the soft Sirreuerence, so that I warrant you hee stunke worse then a Iakes-farmer. The Gentleman hearing one crie out,  
and

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and séeing his messe altogether thus strongly taken away, began to gather courage to him, and looked out to sée what it was: where, to his no small contentment hee might behold the Curbar lying along almost brained, almost drowned, and well neere poisoned with the tragicall euent of the pisspot: whereat he laughed merily, and suspecting his Lemman to haue a share in that conspiracy, and that for ten pounds it was her motion to haue him laie his clothes in the windowe, to the end he might haue loft them and his money, she being a fleépe in the bed all this while, he quietly remoued his owne apparell, took her gowne and peticoat and laid them in the steed. Forthwith the Curbar reuiued, in came the hooke againe verie manerlie, and clapt hold on those parcels, which together went downe with a witnesse. All which conforting to his wifh, he went round to bed, and in the morning stole awaie early, neither paying dame Lecherie for her hire, nor leauing her one ragge to put on.

Here was wilie beguily rightly acted, & an aged Ramalion put besides her schoole-trickes. But simply, these Crosbiters are necessarie instruments now and then to tame such wanton youths, as will not let a maid or a wife passe a long the stréetes but they will be meddling with her: what they do they learne of the tumbler, who lies squat in the brakes till the Conie be come forth out of her burrow, and gone a gossiping ouer the way to her next neighbors, & then he goes between her and home, and as she returneth with two or three fleshly minded Rabbets or Simplers with them, with whom it maie be she hath made a bargain to go a bucking, then out flies the tumbler like y<sup>e</sup> crosbiter & feazeth on them all for his praie. I maruell that the book of Conicatching had not him vp in his table, since by his first example he corrupted the Christian people. But you will say, he is *animal irrationale*, and therefore to be borne withall, because he doth but his kind. Kind me no kind, there is more knauerie in Caulier Canis then you are aware of, as you shall perceiue by his discourse following.

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## Greenes Ghost

### A notable Scholerlike discourse vpon the nature of Dogges.

**N**OW Gentlemen, will you giue me leaue to dallie a little for your further recreation, & I will proue vnto you that a dogge is a dangerous man, and not to be dealt withall: yea he is such a kind of creature that he may well be master and gouernour ouer all ordinary beasts: for first and formost, there is no man of experience that will denie but dogs do excell in outward fence, for they will smell better then we, and therby hunt the game when they see it not. Besides, they get the sight of it better then we, and are wonderfull quicke of hearing. But let vs come to speech, which is either inward or outward. Now that they haue outward speech I make no question, although we cannot vnderstand them, for they bark as good old Saxon as may be; yea they haue it in more daintie maner thā we, for they haue one kind of voice in the chafe, and another when they are beaten, and another when they fight. That they haue the inward speech of mind, which is chiefly conuersant in those things which agree with our nature, or are most against it, in knowing those things which stand vs most in steed, & attaining those vertues which belong to our proper life, and are most conuersant in our affections, thus I proue: first and formost he chooseth those things that are comodious vnto him, and shunneth the contrarie: He knoweth what is good for his diet, and seeketh about for it. At the sight of a whip he runneth away like a thief from a hue and crie. Neither is he an idle fellow that liues like a trencher Flie vpon the sweat of other mens browes, but hath naturallie a trade to get his liuing by, as namely the arte of hunting and Conicatching, which these late books go about to discredit. Yea, there be of them as of men of all occupations, some Carriers, and they will fetch; some watermen, and they will diue and swim when you bid them; some butchers, and they will kill sheepe; some cookes, and they turne the spit. Neither are they void of vertue; for if that be

Iustice

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Iustice that giues euery one his deserts, out of doubt dogs are not destitute of it: for they fawne vpon their familiar friends and acquaintance; they defend those from danger that haue deserued well of them, and reuenge them of strangers, and such as either haue, or go about to do them iniurie. Then if they haue Iustice, they haue all the vertues, since this is an Axioma in Philofophy, that one vertue cannot be separated from another.

Further, we see they are full of magnanimitie, in incountring their enemies. They are wise, as Homer witnesseth, who entreating of the returne of Vlysses to his owne house, affirmeth that all his household had forgotten him but his dogge Argus, and him neither could Pallas by her subtile arte deceiue in the alteration of his body, nor his twentie yeares absence in his beggars weeds delude anie whit, but he still retained his forme in his fantasie, which as it appeared was better then any mans of that time.

According to Chrysippus, they are not ignorant of that excellent facultie of Logicke, for he saith that a dogge by canuassing and study doth obtaine the knowledge to distinguish betwene three seuerall things, as for example, where three waies meete, and of these three hath staid at two of them, by which he perceiueth the game hath not gone, presently without more adoe hee runneth violently on the third waie: which doth argue (saith Chrysippus) as if hee should reason thus. Either hee went this way, or that way, or yonder waie: but neither that waie, nor yonder waie, therefore this way. Againe, when they are sicke, they knowe what disease they haue, and deuise howe they may ease themselues of their grieve; if one strike them into the flesh with a stake, this policy they vse to get it out. They traile one of their feet vpon the ground, and gnaweth the flesh where the wound is round about with their teeth, vntill they haue drawne it cleane out. If they chaunce to haue anie vlcere, because vlcers kept foule are hardlie cured, they licke the sore with their tongues, and keepe it cleane. And wonderfull well doe they obserue the precept

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cept of Hippocrates that the onelic medicine for the foote is to rest, for if they haue anie hurt in their feete, they beare them vp, and as much as lies in them, take care they be not stirred: when vnprofitable humours trouble them, they cate an hearbe, whereby they vomite vp all that is offensive vnto them, and so recouers their health againe. How thinke you my masters, are these vnreasonable creatures, that haue all this naturall reason in them? No, though they are beasts, yet are they not as other are, inhumane: for they haue more humanitie then any other beasts whatsoever. But of them I haue said enough, & therefore I will proceede to my former argument: wherein for your better delight, I will acquaint you with a true storie latelie performed in Poules Church by a couple of Cutpurfes. The matter was of such truth, as I could for neede set downe the Gentlemans name, and also the names of all the actors therein, but I craue pardon, because the Gentleman was of good place and credit, and for more assurance my selfe was present: the whole matter fell out as followeth.

How a Countrie Gentleman walking in Poules had  
his purse cut by a new kind of conueyance,  
and in the end by the like wilie  
beguily got it againe.

**A** Countrie Gentleman of some credite walking in Powles, as tearmers are wont that wait on their lawyers, was seene by a couple of light fingred companions, that had got some gentlemanship vpon them by priuie biting in y<sup>e</sup> dark, to haue some store of crownes in his purse coacht in a faire trunke sloop, like a boulting hutch. Alas, they were mortall, and could not choose but bee tempted with so glorious an obiect. For what maie not gold doe with him that hath neither money nor credit? Wherefore in verie zeale of a bad spirit, they conspired how to make a breach in his pocket, and possesse themselues of their pray. In the end it was concluded (as necessitie is neuer without



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out stratagems) that the one should go behind him, while the other gaue the stroke that should deuide life and foule. As they determined, so they brought it to passe, for the good old fellow walking verie soberly in one of the fide Iles, deuifing where to dine to saue the odde thrée pence, sodainly one of them stept behind him and clapt his hands before his eyes, saying: Who am I? Who am I? while the other gaue the purse the gentle ierke, and beguiled his purse of the gilt: which done, hee went sneaking awaie like a dog that had wearied a shéep. The good minded Gentlemā that was thus muffled, thinking that it had bin one of his acquaintance, that plaid bo péepe with him after that sort, cried to him, Now for the passion of God, who are you? who are you? Tell me I praie you who are you? For I shall neuer reckon while I liue. O, quoth the Cauallero Cutpurse, you shall know by and by, and therewith plucking awaie his hands, looked him full in the face & laughed, but by and by starting aside, as if he had committed an errour, God forgiue me (quoth he) what haue I done, I crie you hartily mercie, I haue mistaken you for my acquaintance, one that is so like you, as one peaze is like another: and therefore I pray you pardon me. No harme done, no harme done, quoth the Gentleman, and so they departed. Sinior who was to deuide his bootie where his companion attended him, and my neighbour Mumpsimus to tyrannize on Buls pudding-pies for his fixe pence: short tale to make, his hungrie bodie being refreshed, and euerie one satisfied, there entred in a dumbe shewe, the reckoning with a cleane trencher in his hand verie orderly, as who should say, Lay your hand on the booke. On him attended a well fed Tapster in a shining fute of well liquored fustian, wheron was engrauen the triumphs of many full platter, with his apron on his shoulder, and his knife vnder his girdle. At which sight euery man began to draw, and my honest penifather thought to droppe testers with the rest: but woe alas, his bréeches were like the bottom-lesse pit of hell, for there was not one crosse to be found.

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Then

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Then began he to fume and chafe, and run vp and downe like a mad man, faying, Well a day y<sup>t</sup> euer I was borne Who am I? who am I? Whereat the reft of the Gentlemen wondring, he vp and told them the whole ftorie of his miffortune, as is afore recited. And faid, now I know who it was that faid, Who am I? who am I? for in troth he was a cutpurfe. But here did he not ceafe or fpend much time in finging a *De profundis* ouer his emptie pocket, where was nought els faue Lent and defolation, but iumbled his braines together like ftones in a bladder, and toft ouer his thoughts as a Tailer doth his fhreds when he hath loft his néedle, to find out fome meanes to fetch home his ftraied purfe, and to be euen with thofe vndermining Pioners. In the end his pillow and prefent pouertie put this policie into his head. The next day early in the morning he went into Poules in the fame apparell, and walking iuft in the fame place where he loft the maine chance the day before, hauing bought him a faire new purfe with white strings and great tassels, and filled the fame with braffe counters, and thruft it into the flop of his hofe, as he was wont, letting the strings thereof hang out for a traine. Well, fo it fell out, that he had fcarce fetcht thrée turnes, but a poore woman that had the fhaking ague in her head came to afke his charitie: he glad of anie occafion to boaft his counterfeit wealth, to entrap the eyes of thofe hungrie efpials, gaue her a penie, and therewith drew forth a number of counters, making fhew as if they had béene French crownes: which was prefently perceiued by Timothy touch and take, that had beene in the action the day before, who fitting vnder a pillar, leaning like one twixt fléeeping and waking, fell into a great longing, how he might haue that purfe alfo to beare the other companie. Still the olde Snudge went plodding in one path, and euer looked vnder his ouerhanged moffie eye-browes, to fee who came néere him, or once offer to iuftle him. He had befide at either end of the Ile on of his men to watch, for feare any more, Who am I? fhuld come behind him. At laft out steps my nimble  
knaue,

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knaue, and running hastily by him like some prentise, that had béene sent of an errand, he sliced it smoothly away, so as the gentleman neuer perceiued it. But one of his men who had his senses both of féeing and féeling better then his master, marked when he gaue him the gentle gléeke, and whither he went when hee had obtained his bootie: whereupon dogging him to a Cookes shoppe in Thames stréet; to which place also the Gentlemā followed aloofe off. He there laid hands on him, and challenged him for a Cutpurse, saying, he had féene him doe such a thing in Poules, and told him also from whom he tooke it. He swore and stared, and stood at vtter defiance with him. And the better to outface the matter, his partner, who being then lodged in the same house, came downe and fell in tearmes of doing the Gentleman wrong, and that he should answer him, or any man els. And (quoth he) if thou wert well serued thou shouldest be stabd for offering to discredit him thus at his lodging. Meane while that these matters were thus disputing, and the poore seruingmans death with manie oathes vowed, in came his master, who spying, Who am I? to stand vpon his pantofles so proudly, straight tooke him aside, and told him a tale in his eare, that did him small good at the heart, and said flatly hee was the man, and no other whom he sought for, and either he would haue restitution for his purse at his hands, or they would trie a conclusion at Tyborne. At which spéech their courage was somewhat abated: and in the end it so fell out, to auoid further trouble they restored him both the purses with quietnes, and made him a sufficient recompence for the trespasse. Thus at that time they escaped, and all parties were pleased: but shortly after they were taken for such an other fact, for which they were both condemned and executed at Tyborne.

Now Gentlemen, haue you not heard a pretie prancke of Wilie beguily, where the cunning Cutpurse was pinched in his owne practise? sure I thinke neuer was poore Nip so nipt before. Wherefore I wish all those that are of

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that

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that facultie to be carefull of the right Nip, who if he bee neuer so cunning in his arte, yet at one time or other hee maie hap to meete with Bul, and his sturdie Iade, on whom if he chance to ride with his necke snarled in an hempen halter, he is like to receiue so sharpe a nip, that it will for euermore marre his drinking place.

### A notable exploit performed by a Lift.

**T**Here was not long since one of our former professi-on, hauing intelligence of a Citizen that inuited three or foure of his friends to dinner, came a little before dinner time, and marked when the guesstes were all come: when they were all come, as he thought, knowing the good-man of the house safe (for he was not yet come from the exchange) steps vp the staires boldly, and comes into the roome where the guests were: when he comes in he salutes them, and askes if his cofen were not yet come from the Exchange. They told him no. No (faith he) me thinks he is verie long, it is past twelue of the clocke. Then after a turne or two, In faith Gentlemen (quoth my new come guest) it were good to doe something whereat we may bee merie against my cofen comes home, and to that intent I will take this Salt and hide it, that when hee misseth it, we shall see what he will say to my cofen his wife: so hee tooke the Salt, and put it in his pocket, and walked a turne or two more about the roome, within a while when ye other guests were busie in talk, he steps downe the staires faining to make water; but when he was downe, he turned downe Théeués allie, and neuer returned againe. The Citizen when he came home bid his friends welcome, and anon he mist the Salt that should be set on the table, called his wife to know if there were neuer a Salt in the house: His wife busie about dinner, tooke her husband vp, as women at such times will do, when they are a little troubled (for a little thing troubles them God wot) and asked him if he had no eyes in his head. No, nor you wife (quoth he)

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hee) if you say there be any now: So there past many shrewd and hot words betwene them. At length the guests vnwilling they should disagree on so small a trifle, they vp and told how one came in and asked for his cofen, and tooke away the Salt, meaning to make a little mirth at dinner. But when they saw he returned no more, they contented themselues with patience, and went to dinner, as men at such times vse to do, with heauy hearts and cold stomackes.

**T**Here are a certaine band of Raggamuffin Prentises about the towne, that will abuse anie vpon the smallest occasion that is, and such men (whom they neuer came to the credit in all their liues to make cleane their shooes) these dare neuer meete a man in the face to auouch their rogarie, but forsooth they must haue the help of some other their complices. Of this base sort you shall commonly find them at Playhouses on holy dayes, and there they will be playing their parts, or at some rout, as the pulling downe of Baudie houses, or at some good exploit or other, so that if you need helpe, or you thinke your selfe not able to make your part good with anie that you owe a grudge to, no more but repaire to one of these, and for a canne of Ale they will do as much as another for a crowne: & these make no more conscience to beat or lame one, whom they neuer before saw nor knew, then the knights of the poasts when they are feed out of Poules to sweare falsly.

There are another sort of Prentises, that when they see a Gentlewoman or a countriman minded to buy anie thing, they will fawne vpon them with their cap in hand, with what lacke you Gentlewoman? what lacke you Countriman? See what you lacke. The Gentlewoman perusing diuers commodities, findeth nothing that perhaps likes her: then going away, they come off with their ouerworne frumps. Will you buy nothing Gentlewoman? Its no maruell you should see such choice of good ware. Then they begin to discommend her person to their

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next

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next neighbors, as good as themfelues, and at next word, Send a fine dogge after her. Thefe maie bee likened to curriff Spaniels, that when a man comes into the houle will fawne vpon him, but before he goes forth, if hee take not heed, will catch him by the fhinnes. But if they méete with a countrie-man, he is the fitteft man in the world to deale vpon. They will afke him iuft twife fo much as the ware is worth. The plaine fimple man offers within a verie little of his price, as they vse in the countrie: which the Apprentife takes, and fwears it was not his for that money, and fo makes the poore man a right Conie. I think few in the Exchange will account this for a Conicatching trick. But if the countriman leaues them and goes his waie without buying anie thing, either for that hee likes not the ware, or that it is of too high a price: then will they come off with, Do you heare Countriman, will you giue me thus much, and leaue your blew coate for a pawn for the ref? or they will bid him fell his fword and buy a paire of fhooes? or fuch like scoffing girds, that the poore man fometimes could find in his heart to giue all the money in his purfe, that he had them in Finsburie fields, that hee might reuenge himfelfe on them for abufing him: a verie great abuse to their maifters and chapmen.

To this focietic maie be coupled alfo another fraternity, viz. Water-rats, Watermen I meane, that will be readie & very diligent for anie man, vntil they can get them to their boates, but when they come to land to paie their fare, if you paie them not to their owne contentments, you fhall be fure of fome gird or other, yea and perhaps if they know they haue an Affe to deale with, ftop his hat or his cloake, till he haue paid them what they lift; but thefe are moft commonlie feruants and apprentices: for the order is, that for euerie twelue pence they earne their maifter allowses them two pence, fo then the more they get, whether by hook or crooke, the more think they their gaine comes in. But this fort now and then méete with their mates, who in ftéed of a penie more in filuer, fend them to  
the

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the Chirurgians with two penie worth of forrow.

But what need I to spend time in deciphering these common companions? These few I haue particularly named, but thinke you there are no more of this kind? But I let passe Carmen and Dreyemen, as verie knaues as the rest, because these are better knowne then I can set them forth: I meane not at this time, nor in this Treatise to set forth the guiles and deceits accustomed in all trades and mysteries from the chiefeft trade to the basest, but will content my selfe for this time, with that that hath béene already dilated, intending in some other Treatise, at one time or other to relate in briefe what hath beene at large too long put in practise.

In the meane time curteous Citizens, let me exhort you to become good exāples to your family: for as the master is, so commonly is the seruant, as witnes the old verses in the Sheppards Calender in September.

Sike as the Sheppards, like beene her sheepe.

And be sure, if thy seruant fee thee giuen to spending, and vnchast liuing, there looke thy seruant, when thou thinkest he is about thy businesse, not onely spends his time vainly, but that money, which by thy care in staying at home thou mightest haue saued. Such iollie shauers, that are deepe flashers of others, mens hides, haue I knowne (more is the pitie) to sit vp all night, some at Cardes and Dice, some quaffing and swilling at the Tauerne, and other among their trulles, spending in one night some twentie shillings, and thirtie shillings often: some againe that can maintaine to themselues a wench all the yeare, and then they must filch and purloine whole péeces of stufte for their gownes and peticoats, besides great store of mony: But these are such that can with a wet finger, and by reason of abundance of ware purloine their maisters goods, & not easily be espied. But be sure at one time or other such villains wil come forth: for the pot goes so oft to the water, that at last it comes home crackt. And take this for a  
principle

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principle and general rule, that whosoeuer he be that giues himselfe to this damnable sinne of lust, let him be assured, as sure as he had it alreadie, that a great punishment hangeth ouer his head. Therefore it behooues the maister to be wise in gouerning his seruants, that they may bee as markes for their seruants to shoote at, to see how their seruants bee addicted and giuen, and not to be sterne and seuerer towards them, but rather keepe them in, that they wander not abroad more then necessitie forceth, remembering that rule that Ouid giueth,

*Parce puer stimulis & fortius utere loris.*

Spare the whip, raine them hard: for such as are growne to yeares will hardly endure blowes, wherefore the raiuing them from their desires is the next way in my mind to bring them to good.

But here is the griefe that those that should giue light are darke; those that should be guides haue need to be lead; those that should instruct to sobrietie, are inducers to vauitye, according to those verses in Maie,

Those faitors littell regarden their charge,  
While they letting their sheep runne at large,  
Passen their time that should be sparely spent,  
In lustinesse and wanton meriment.  
Thilke same be Sheppards for the diuels steed,  
That playen, &c.

Againe, what conscience they vse in bargaining and selling, witnesse the whole world, according to Diggon in Septemb.

They fetten to sale their shops of shame,  
And maken a market of their good name.  
The sheppards there robben one another,  
And layen baites to beguilde her brother.

And



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And againe,

Or they bine false or full of couetife,  
And casten to compasse many wrong emprise.

In fine, to conclude with that which we haue so long stood vpon, namely with vncleannesse, how hard it is for men to bee reclaimed from it: and as it is pernicious to all generally, so particularly to young men that haue newlie fet vp for themselues, and haue as it were newly entred into the world, soone maie they cast awaie themselves, except they looke the better about them: but most odious for such that haue wiues, with whom they may solace themselves. Pitie it is that such cannot be noted aboue the rest, it shewes an inordinate lust. And nowe it comes in my mind, I will impart with a tricke serued vpon a married man, and a tradesman by a good wench, as they call them, reported and heard from her owne mouth not long since. The parties names I will conceale, because some of them are of some credite, although somewhat blemished by this skarre: and it was on this maner.

### How a Citizen was serued by a Curtizan.

There was one Mounseieur Libidinofo dwelling at the signe of Incontinencie, hauing cast vp his accounts for the weeke past (for it was Saturday night) after supper resolued with himselfe to walke, which way he cared not, but as his staffe fell, so would he wend: by chance it fell Westward, and Westward he went, vntill he came to Whitefriers. When he came thither he bethought himselfe, and held it a déed of charitie to see some of his old acquaintance, whom hee had not visited a long time before: But they according to the ancient custome were removed, for they vse not to stay long in a place. He hearing that, made no more ado but fel aboard with one that came next to hand, as good as the best, one that had béene tried, and such a one as would not shrink at a shower: little

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intreatie serues, and vp they goe. When after their beaftly sport and pleafure Mounſieur Libid. heat of luſt was ſomewhat affwaged, and ready to goe, féeling his pocket for a venerecall remuneration finds nothing but a Teſter, or at leaſt ſo little, that it was not ſufficient to pleaſe dame Pleaſure for her hire. He proteſted and vowed he had no more about him now: for (ſaid he) when I came forth I neur thought what money I had about me. My Ladie would not beléeue Monſ. Libid. a great while, but ſearched and féeled for more coine, but at that time ſhe was fruſtrate of her expectation: ſhe ſeeing no remedie, ſet as good a countenance on the matter as ſhe could, and told him ſhe would be contented for that time, hoping hee would bee more beneficiall to her hereafter. They were both contented: where no ſooner hee is gone downe the ſtaires, but ſhee whips off her gowne, and puts on a white waſtcoate with a trice, and ſo dogs M. Libidinof. home to his houſe, and taking a perfect view of his houſe and ſigne, returnes back againe. On Monday morning ſhe came to his houſe verie orderly in her gown with her handbasket in her hand, where ſhe found Monſ. Libid. and his wife in the ſhop: when ſhe came in ſhe called for this ſort and that ſort of lace, vntill ſhe had called for as much ware as came to twentie ſhillings: when ſhe was ready to goe, ſhe whiſpered my Gentleman in the eare, and asked him, If he be remembred how ſleightly ſuch a time he rewarded her kindneſſe, but now I am fatiſſied for this time. M. Libid. was in a wonderfull ſtreight, and gaue her not a word for an answer, fearing his wife ſhould knowe anie thing. His wife noting her whiſpering in her husbands eare, and ſeeing no mony paid, asked her husband when ſhe was gone, who ſhe was. Hee verie ſmoothly told her, ſhee was a very honeſt cutters wife, and that hee knew her a long time to bee a good paymaſter. This answer contented his wife: but ful well I know he was not cōtented in his mind al the day after.

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Sée here how a man may bee vnawares ouertaken  
by these filthie Pitchbarrels. Then let this example teach  
thee to forgoe their allurements, leaft thou in time be de-  
filed with the like blot, or ouerplunged in a deeper bog :  
Remember,

*Felix qui facit aliena pericula cautum.*

For these night birdes not vnlike the Syrens, the more  
you frequent them, the more you shall be intangled, accor-  
ding to these verbes, *Diggon in Sept.*

For they beene like foule wagmoires ouergraft,  
That if thy gallage once sticketh fast,  
The more to wind it out thou doest swinke,  
Thou mought ay deeper and deeper fincke.  
Yet better leaue of with littell losse,  
Then by much wrestling to leese the grosse.

These may be motiues to all to auoide such infectious  
plague-fores: but how hard it is to get vp a tyred iade  
when he is downe, especially in the dirt euery man  
knowes, and men wil haue their swinge do all what they  
can, according to *Thenot in February.*

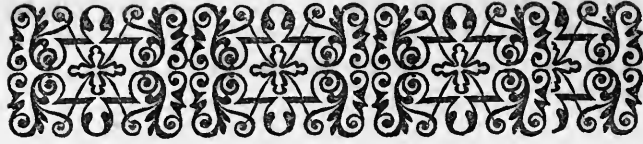
Must not the world wend in his common course,  
From good to bad; and from bad to worfe;  
From worfe vnto that is worst of all,  
And then returne to his former fall.

But for my part I am resolued and with all men of the  
like mind sticking my staffe by Peirse in Maie.

Sheppard, I list no accordance make  
With sheppard that does the right way forsake,  
And of the twaine if choise were to me  
Had leuer my foe then my friend to be.

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The



THE NOTABLE, SLIE,  
and deceitfull pranks of Doctor  
Pinchbacke.



Notable fellow of this trade well stricken in yeares, one that was free of the Nitmongers, trauelled with his boy into Yorkeshire. And hauing no mony in his purse, nor other meanes to relieue himselfe but plaine shifting, grewe into vtter despaire of his estate, by reason hee had worne all cosonages threed bare, and made the vttermost of his wit that was possible. Wherefore complaining himself to his trustie page, that had bene patner with him both in weale and woe, and whom hee had brought vp in his occupation, and taught to be as subtile as himselfe: but Maister (quoth he) take no care, for when all is gone and nothing left, well fare the Dagger with the dudgeon haft. I am young and haue crochets in my head: I warrant you, while I haue my five senses we will not begge. Goe you and take vp your lodging in the fairest Inne in the towne, and call in lustily, sparing for no cost, and let me alone to pay for all. With this resolution they went into York citie, where seeing a verie faire Tauern, readie to outface the, according to the boyes aduise, they put into it, & called for a roome, and none might content them but the best chamber in the house. Then Iacke of the clocke house summoned the Chamberlaine before him,

## haunting Conicatchers.

him, and tooke an inuentorie what extraordinarie prouision of victuals they had for dinner, telling them his maister was no common man, nor would he be pleased with anie grosse kind of fare. The Tapster, who hoping of gaine, seemed verie seruiceable, and told him he should want nothing. And although they had at that time fundrie strangers, by reason the chiefe Iustices of the shire sate there the same day about a Commission, yet promised to giue what attendance he might. Thus did the Crack-rope triumph, and walking in the yard while dinner was preparing, hāmered in his head, & cast an eye about the house to see if anie occasion were offered for him to worke vpon. At last going vp a paire of stayres, hee spied in a faire great Chamber where the Commissioners sate, a fide settle, whereon good store of plate stood. Yea, thought he? and it shall go hard but Ile make vp my market. So into the chamber clofely hee slept, not beeing perceiued by any man, couertly conveyed away vnder his cloake one of the greatest gilt goblets, and went immediately on the backside of the house, where spying an old well, hee flung the same, and went his way vp to his master, to whom hee discouered what he had done, intreating him the better to furnish out the Pageant, to change his name, and call himselfe Doctor Pinchbacke.

This done, he went downe into the kitchen to see if dinner were readie: where the goodman of the house began to question with him what his Maister was, and who they called him. Sir, quoth he, Doctor Pinchbacke. What, is he a Doctor of Physicke quoth the host? Yea marie, quoth the boy, and a speciall good one. With that answer he ceased questioning any further, but sent vp meat to his dinner, and went vp himselfe to bid him welcome.

Dinner being done and the other guests ready to rise, the Goblet sodainly was missed, and great inquiry

F 3

made

## Greenes Ghoſt

made for it, but at no hand it would be found: all the ſeruaunts were examined, the houſe was thoroughlie ſearched, none of the Gentlemen had it. This newe found Doctōr ſware hee ſawe it not, the boy denied it alſo, yet ſtill the goodman and the good wife kept a great ſtirre for it, and were readie to weepe for verie anger that they ſhould kēep ſuch knaues about them as had no more care, but retchleſſly let a cuppe of nine pounds bēe ſtollen, and no man knew which waie. Then the hoſt made great offers to haue it againe, which the boy hearing, ſaid, if they could entreate his Maiſter to take the paines, he could caſt a figure, and fetch it againe with heaue and ho. But not a word (quoth he) that I told you ſo.

The good man hearing that, ranne vp in all haſt, and beſought Maiſter Doctōr for the paſſion of God to ſtand his friend, or els he was vndone. So it is, quoth he, that I vnderſtand of your great learning and knowledge, and that by a ſpeciall gift in Aſtronomie that God hath giuen, you can tell of maruellous matters, and helpe againe to things that are loſt. I praie you as euer you came of a woman ſhewe mee a little feate about my cuppe: and though I haue but ſmall ſtore of mōney, yet will I beſtowe fortie ſhillings on you for your labour. Maiſter Doctōr at the firſt made ſtrange of the matter, and ſeemed verie loth to deale in it, by reaſon of the daunger of the lawe: yet for that he ſeemed to bee an honeſt man, and it griued him that anie ſuch thing ſhould happen whileſt hee was in his houſe, hee would ſtraine a little with his cunning to relēue him in the beſt ſorte, not ſo much for his mōney as for his friendſhip, and ſwore hee would not doe it for any other for a hundred pounds, therefore hee deſired him to leaue him to himſelfe, and to take order that no man came to trouble him for ſome two houres ſpace, and he ſhould ſee what he would do for him.

Two

## haunting Conicatchers.

Two houres hee stayed alone by himselfe toasting him by a good fire till he sweate againe, then painting his face with a deadish colour, which hee caried alwaies about with him for such a purpose, and then calling vp the hoste, told him that hee had laboured fore for him, and almost indaungered himselfe in vndertaking the action, yet by good fortune hee had finished his businesse, and found where the cuppe was. Haue you not a well (quoth hee) on the backe side of your house that stands thus, and thus, for mine owne part I was neuer there (that I can tell of) to see. Yes that I haue, sayd the Hoste. Well (said Maister Doctor) in the bottome of that well is your cuppe: wherefore goe search presently, and you shall finde my words true. The goodman with all expedition did as hee willed him, and drew the well drie: at last hee spied his Goblet where it lay. It was no neede to bid him take it vp, for in his owne person hee went downe in the bucket: and full lightly to Maister Doctour Pinch-packs chamber hee trudged, and caried him fortie shillings, offering him besides a moneths boord in requitall of his great curtesie. This counterfeite forsooth would seeme to refuse nothing, but there lay and fed vpon the stocke, whilest my goodman hoste did nothing but fill the cuntry with his praise.

Not manie daies passed but a Gentleman of good credite drawne thither by the ordinarie report, came to visit him, who desirous to make triall of his cunning, he craued to knowe of him (his wife then beeing big with child) whether it was a man childe or a woman childe she went withall? Hee answered he could say little thereto except he saw her naked.

The Gentleman although hee thought it was no vsuall thing for a man to see a woman naked, yet Physitions haue more priuiledge then others, and  
they

## Greenes Ghost

they as well as Midwiues are admitted to any secrets. Wherefore he perswaded his wife to disclose her selfe to him, and to dispence with a little inconuenience, so they may be resolued of so rare a secret. But this was Doctor Pinchbackes drift, hee thought to haue shifted the Gentleman off by this extraordinarie imposition, thinking he would rather haue surceased his sute, then anie waie haue suffered him to see his wife naked. In conclusion a chamber was prepared warme and close, in which she shewed her selfe, & twife walked vp and down the chamber naked in the presence of M. Doctor and her husband, who demanded M. Doctors answer to his former question, which was as followeth: Quoth he, from meward it is a boy, and to me ward it is a girle: other answer they could get none of him. Wherefore the Gentleman was greatly offended against him, calling him Affe, Dolt, Patch, Cockescombe, Knaue, and all the base names he could deuise. But awaie went maister Doctor as skilfull in those cases as a blind man when he throweth his staffe: and durst not answer the Gentleman one word. And the Gentleman greatly repented him that he had been so foolish to shew his wife in that sort before so fottish a companion.

About foure dayes after the Gentlewoman fell in labour, and was deliuered of a boy and a girle: whereat the Gentleman remembring the blunt answer of the Doctor, and finding it to be true, was greatly astonished, supposing indéed hee had mightily wronged the Doctor: to whom he went immediately crauing pardon for his former follie, shewing himselfe verie sorrowfull for his fault, and offered him in recompence of amends all the fauour he might possibly doe him, granting to him his house at commandement, and his boord for so long time as he would continue with him. Whereupon in signe of loue and amitie he went and sojourned at the Gentlemans house: Whereupon the Doctors cre-



## haunting Conicatchers.

credit still more and more began to increase, so that all the cuntry round about told no small tales of the great cunning of Doctor Pinchbacke, to whom they resorted early and late.

It fortuned soone after there was a Faire neere to the Gentlemans house, where the people diuerfly talked of the Doctors skill and cunning, and that he could doe anie thing, or tell anie thing that was done in anie place. Naie (quoth a plaine Cuntriman) I will venture twentie Nobles that hee shall not doe it. I will my selfe goe personally to him, and hold something in my hand, and if hee tell me what it is I will lose my money. I take you, sayd one or two, and the wager being layd, awaie they went towards the Gentlemans house: and passing thorough a meadow, the man tooke vp a Grasshopper out of the grasse, and put it into his hand, so close that no man might perceiue it. Then forward they went, and met with Maister Doctor, and they desired him to satisfie them of that secret which was vpon his credite, to tell them what one of the companie held in his hand. Whereunto the Doctor was loth to answer, considering he had no such skill as people bruted abroad: neuerthelesse he cast in his mind, how he might excuse the matter by some pretie sleight, if he should guesse amisse, and therefore concluded in this iest, he called to mind that his owne name was Grasshopper, and if (quoth he) I take him by the hand, I may say hee hath a grasshopper in his hand, and yet I may iustly defend it for a truth. Whereupon the Doctor taking him by the hand, said he had a Grasshopper in his hand: which being opened was found true. Whereat the Cuntrimen wondred, and went their wayes. Some said hee was but a cosoning knaue: others reported what wonders hee could performe: Some said he could

G

goe

## Greenes Ghost

goe round about the world in a moment, and that he walked euerie night in the aire with spirites: some said hee had a familiar: thus the people gaue their censure; some liking, and others misliking him. And in a word, so manie men, so manie mindes, but the greater part of the countrey admired his deepe knowledge, and published his excellent learninge, so that he became famous amongst the people, and the Gentleman not a little proud of so worthy a guest: in so much that hauing one onely daughter, whom he loued most entierlie, and as parents most desire their children should match themselues with such, by whom they hope preferment should come, on a daie brake his minde to the Doctour in his daughters behalfe, assuring him hee should not onely finde her a louing and dutifull wife, but would giue him foure hundred pounds, and make him assurance of all his land, which was worth (sayd hee) better then two hundred markes a yeare after his decease, if so it would please his worship to accept his kind offer, which hee assured him proceeded of meere loue. The Doctour a while coylye refused the Gentlemans offer, but beeing earnestly entreated of the Gentleman, he answered him to this effect.

Sir, for your great friendship hitherto and vnexpected kindnesse, at this time I cannot but confesse my selfe much indebted to you: and because you are so importunate with me to marie your daughter (although I protest it is not for my profite) I doe willingly take her to my wife: for I haue (saith hee) refused many faire and personable Gentlewomen in mine owne countrey with large dowries: but to make you part of amends for your vnderferued kindnesse, I here am content to yeeld to your request. The Gentleman humbly thanked him, and prolonged not the  
time

## haunting Conicatchers.

time I warrant you, but with great expedition hasted the marriage daie: where with great feasting and ioy with his friends they passed that day with much pleasure and musicke.

The Doctour about a moneth after desired the Gentleman for his wiues portion, which the Gentleman willingly paid him. When two or three dayes were passed he told the Gentleman hee would goe into his owne countrie to see his friends, and withall prepare and make readie his house (which was let forth to farme) for himselfe to inhabite, and that he would come againe when all things were readie and fetch his wife. The Gentleman was verie vnwilling to leaue the Doctors companie; but seeing the Doctor so importunate, at last yeelded, and so lent the Doctor and his boy two of his best geldings: who as soone as they were on horsebacke, neuer minding to returne againe, tooke their iourney into Deuonshire, and there so long as his foure hundred pounds lasted made merie with their companions, till at last hauing spent all, beganne to renew his olde trade, and after being taken in companie with some suspected persons was apprehended, and by the law (as I heard) was condemned to bee hanged for a murtherer.

Thus although peradventure hee was not guiltie of the murther, yet it was a iust punishment for his villanie before practised.

The Gentleman after a quarter of a yeare was past, beganne to looke for the Doctors comming home againe, but in vaine; so hee passed a tweluemonth, expecting his sonne in lawes returne: at last as happe was one of the Gentlemans acquaintance hauing beene at his house, and seeing the Doctor there, brought word home to the Gentleman that hee sawe the Do-

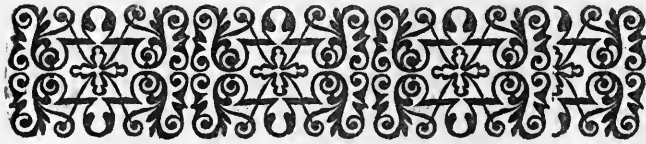
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## Greenes Ghost

stor for certaine executed at Exceter in Deuonshire,  
for a muder. In what a melancholy humour the Gentleman was in, and what grieve and sorrowe the young Gentlewoman tooke to heart at these heauie tidings,  
I refer it to the Reader, and none but those  
that haue tasted of those griefes  
doe sufficiently  
know.

FINIS.





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